

Please **OPPOSE** the following bills: SB16 and HB5416

Please **SUPPORT** the following bills: SB388, HB5415 and HB5412

To the Judiciary Committee,

Please **OPPOSE SB 16**: The bulk of this bill has ***NOTHING*** to do with “juvenile crime” or the so called “gun violence” that plagues many of CT’s inner cities and suburban towns. Once again the Governor and many legislators seek to punish the law abiding for the actions of a small group of individuals who choose to not follow the law. Once again politicians seek to ban even more of the least used firearms used by criminals. One only has to look at the FBI and CT Uniform Crime Data to see the very guns this bill seeks to regulate and ban are the least used in crimes. Blunt objects, knives, hands and feet are used to murder more victims than the firearms this bill seeks to regulate and ban.

<https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/tables/expanded-homicide-data-table-8.xls>  
<https://www.dpsdata.ct.gov/dps/ucr/data/2017/Crime%20in%20Connecticut%202017.pdf>

SB 16 further would restrict the law abiding from being able to defend themselves on public transportation and while in certain public locations. It would, as most firearm restrictions *intentionally do*, disproportionately affect the poor, less well off, who rely on public transportation.

SB 16 would allow police to stop and question a person who is observed carrying a handgun who has not committed or been accused of committing any crime. This is a gross 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment violation. It cannot help but be used in a discriminatory and arbitrary fashion against select individuals.

There are additional elements of SB 16 that should be opposed since they primarily would only impact and harm the law abiding citizen. This bill should be opposed and rejected simply because the bulk of this bill does little to nothing to address the root causes of juvenile violence and crime.

Please **OPPOSE HB 5416**: This bill only places more limits on the law abiding gun owners. One who has already undergone an extraordinarily expensive and lengthy permitting process; which includes finger printing and a background check. Further an additional background check is performed at point of handgun and long gun sale or transfer. A criminal can and will easily work around such a ban on handgun sales just as they do currently. As such once again only the law abiding would be affected by such a restriction.

Please **SUPPORT SB 388**: One should have the ability to use deadly physical force as necessary to reasonably defend oneself, or others, against others bent on physical harm or assault who have illegally and unlawfully entered one’s; home, dwelling, place of business or work, or one’s motor vehicle.

Please **SUPPORT HB 5412**: History has shown that houses of worship are not immune from acts violence. There have been a number of violent incidences at houses of worship that were stopped or ended by armed citizens. One should have the ability to use deadly physical force as necessary to reasonably defend oneself, or others, while in a house of worship.

Please **SUPPORT HB 5415**: One should have the right to sell or transfer any legal personal property one owns and legally possesses. One legally purchased the firearm or magazine that this state arbitrarily later deemed to be restricted and non-sellable or non-transferable to any other resident of the state other than a licensed gun dealer, police, or upon one’s death. This is a significant financial impact to the owner of that personal property. The state has purposefully devalued that personal property by deeming it essentially unsellable within the state. One should be able to sell their personal property to another person within this state unencumbered by such arbitrary and illogical restrictions that were created by this state’s assault weapons ban and large capacity magazine ban.

In closing, I once again ask that you **oppose** SB 16 and HB 5416 and **support** SB 388, HB 5412 and HB5415.

Respectfully,

Stephen Bennett

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